

106th Congress, 1st Session - - - - - House Document 106-77

A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE EX-
TENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

NOTIFICATION OF HIS DETERMINATION THAT CONTINUATION OF
THE WAIVER CURRENTLY IN EFFECT FOR THE PEOPLE'S RE-
PUBLIC OF CHINA WILL SUBSTANTIALLY PROMOTE THE OBJEC-
TIVES OF SECTION 402 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, PURSUANT
TO 19 U.S.C. 2432 (c) AND (d)



JUNE 7, 1999.—Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and
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WASHINGTON : 1999

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 3, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to the People's Republic of China. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for the People's Republic of China will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act, and my reasons for such determination.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF WAIVER
AUTHORITY FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Pursuant to subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (hereinafter "the Act"), as amended, having determined that further extension of the waiver authority granted by subsection 402(c) of the Act for twelve months will substantially promote the objectives of section 402, I have today determined that continuation of the waiver currently applicable to China will also substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. My determination is attached and incorporated herein.

Freedom of Emigration Determination

China's relatively free emigration policies have continued during the past twelve months. In FY 1998, 27,776 U.S. immigrant visas were issued to Chinese nationals abroad, up slightly from FY 1997. Numbers were made available to immigrants from China up to the numerical limitation under U.S. law. The figure of 27,776 includes only immigrant visas issued at U.S. consular offices abroad, and does not take into account adjustments of status at INS offices in the United States.

In FY 1998, 197,332 U.S. visas were issued worldwide to tourists and business visitors from China, a 3 percent increase from the FY 1997 total of 190,712.

Also in FY 1998, 27,909 student visas (including exchange student visas) were issued, a 16 percent increase from the FY 1997 total of 23,973.

The higher volume of visas issued in these categories generally reflects the overall 6 percent increase in non-immigrant visa applications (including issuances and refusals) at U.S. consular offices in China in FY 1998 from FY 1997 levels (317,150 to 337,511).

The principal constraint on increased emigration continued to be the capacity and willingness of other nations to absorb Chinese immigrants rather than Chinese policy. After considering all the relevant information, I have concluded that continuing the waiver will preserve the gains already achieved on freedom of emigration and encourage further progress.

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